The Department of Political Science offers a variety of advising resources to provide undergraduate majors and concentrators with the information and support needed to successfully navigate through the program. These resources are described below.

**Advanced Placement**

The department grants credit toward the major for work completed under the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) Advanced Placement Program. Students receive 3 academic credits and exemption from POLS UN1201 Introduction To American Government and Politics or POLS UN1501 Introduction to Comparative Politics for scores of 5 in the United States and Comparative Government and Politics AP Exams.

**Advising**

The Department of Political Science offers a variety of advising resources to provide undergraduate majors and concentrators with the information and support needed to successfully navigate through the program. These resources are described below.

**Undergraduate Advising Office**

Students should take questions or concerns about the undergraduate program to the department’s undergraduate advising office first. If advisers cannot answer a student’s question, they then refer the student to the appropriate person.

The undergraduate advising office is staffed by a political science Ph.D. student who holds open office hours at least once per week (the schedule can be found on-line at https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-advising). Students should stop by during these hours with questions about requirements, course selection, course of study, transfer and study abroad credit, and any other aspect of the program. Students may also reach the adviser by email at polisciadvising@columbia.edu.

Students should also visit the undergraduate advising office for assistance in completing the political science program planning form (available in the office, or on-line at https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-forms-library. The advisers must sign and date this form in the approval column next to any listed class that requires approval to be counted toward the program (transfer courses, non-traditional courses, etc.). These forms cannot be completed by faculty advisers. Each student’s planning form is kept on file in the department, so that each semester they may meet with an adviser to update it.

The advisers are also available to speak with students about more substantive issues, including research interests, internships, and post-college plans. Since the advisers have been through the graduate school application process, they are great resources with whom students may discuss the process. Also, because they are current Ph.D. students in the department, they are familiar with the research interests of political science faculty and can therefore refer students to a professor for thesis advice, a research assistant job, or a faculty member whose research corresponds to the student’s interests.

**Requesting a Faculty Adviser**

Often the best way for students to obtain advising from a faculty member is to contact a professor with whom they have taken a class in an area of interest. Students also have the option of having a faculty adviser assigned by the department. To request a faculty adviser, students should complete the Faculty Adviser Request Form and submit it to the undergraduate coordinator during the first two weeks of the semester.

Students may consult with their faculty adviser for any substantive issue, but still must visit walk-in advising hours to have courses approved, to fill out and update planning forms, and to discuss departmental requirements and regulations.

**Director of Undergraduate Studies**

The director of undergraduate studies oversees the undergraduate program and is available during office hours. While a student’s first stop for advising should be the undergraduate advising office, the director of undergraduate studies is available to answer any questions that the undergraduate advisers or the undergraduate coordinator cannot. In such cases, the undergraduate coordinator and advisers refer students to the director of undergraduate studies.

**Economics-Political Science Adviser**

Economics–political science majors may consult with the economics-political science adviser during office hours. Please note that students should also see an undergraduate adviser to discuss major requirements and fill out a planning form. For any questions about the economics–
political science program that an undergraduate adviser cannot answer, students are referred to the economics-political science adviser.

**Political Science–Statistics Adviser**

Political science–statistics majors may consult with the political science–statistics adviser during office hours. Please note that students should also see an undergraduate adviser to discuss major requirements and fill out a planning form. For any questions about the political science–statistics program that an undergraduate adviser cannot answer, students are referred to the political science–statistics adviser.

**Faculty At-Large**

Students are encouraged to contact any professor for advice during his or her office hours, or by appointment, to discuss interests in political science, course selection, and other academic or post-college issues. The faculty may provide advice about graduate schools, suggest literature that the student might consult as sources for research, recommend specific courses or professors based on the student’s interests, or offer information about research opportunities with faculty. However, students should note that any issues surrounding departmental regulations and requirements, major certification, course approvals, etc., are addressed at the undergraduate advising office.

**Honors Program**

The department offers the Honors Program for a limited number of seniors who want to undertake substantial research projects and write honors theses. The honors thesis is expected to be at least 75 pages in length and of exceptional quality.

Honors students perform research as part of a full-year honors seminar (POLS UN3998-POLS UN3999, 8 points total) during their senior year, in place of the seminar requirement for majors. Honors students may, however, take regular seminars to fulfill other course requirements for the major. Theses are due in late March or early April. To be awarded departmental honors, the student must satisfy all the requirements for the major, maintain a 3.6 GPA in the major, and complete a thesis of sufficiently high quality to merit honors.

The honors seminar director provides general direction for the seminar. The honors seminar director supervises all students; each student also works with a faculty member in his or her major subfield (American politics, comparative politics, international relations, or political theory) and a preceptor. The honors seminar meets weekly for part of the year and addresses general issues involved in research and thesis writing, such as how to develop research questions and projects, methodology, sources of evidence, and outlining and drafting long papers. The sessions are also used for group discussions of students’ research and thesis presentations. Students are also expected to meet periodically with the supervising professor and preceptor.

Students who wish to apply to the Honors Program must notify the department in writing by the end of the spring semester of the junior year. Please check the department website for the official deadline. Normally, no more than 10% of graduating majors receive departmental honors in a given academic year. Applicants are required to have already completed the methods requirement for the major.

**Application Materials**

Applications to the Honors Program must include the following:

1. A cover page with the student’s name, CUID number, e-mail address, and school (Columbia College or General Studies);

2. An official transcript, which may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar (http://www.registrar.columbia.edu) in Kent Hall, or from Student Services Online (https://ssol.columbia.edu) (SSOL);

3. A writing sample, preferably a paper written for a political science course;

4. A brief description (no more than one page) of a possible thesis topic.

Complete applications should be sent to:

Department of Political Science
Attn: Departmental Honors
420 West 118th Street
Mail Code 3320
New York, NY 10027

In addition, students are encouraged to find a faculty sponsor for their thesis proposal. Students who have identified a faculty sponsor should indicate the sponsor in the proposal; students without a faculty sponsor should identify a faculty member with whom they would like to work. Research areas for the political science department faculty are listed on the department’s website (http://www.columbia.edu/cu/polsici). Students will be notified by e-mail of the decision taken on their applications before fall registration.

**Departmental Prizes and Fellowships**

The Department of Political Science administers the following prizes and awards. Unless otherwise noted, students do not play an active part in the nomination process. Rather, faculty members nominate students at their own discretion. Departmental prizes are reserved for political science majors.

**Charles A. Beard Prize**

A cash prize awarded every other year to the student who writes the best paper in political science during the academic year.

**Caroline Phelps Stokes Prize**

**Allan J. Willen Memorial Prize**

**Edwin Robbins Academic Research/Public Service Fellowship**

**The Arthur Ross Foundation Award**

A cash prize awarded to GS students for excellence in the field of political science.

**Phyllis Stevens Sharp Fellowship in American Politics**

The Phyllis Stevens Sharp Endowment Fund provides stipends each year during either academic semester or the summer for one or more Columbia College or School of General Studies students majoring or concentrating in political science to support research in American politics or policy making, or otherwise uncompensated internships in a government office, agency, or other public service organization. Each spring, the department invites students to submit fellowship proposals. Awards are announced in late April or early May.

**Early Admission to the Master's Degree Program in Political Science for Columbia and Barnard Political Science Undergraduates**

While the Department of Political Science does not offer a joint bachelor of arts/master's degree, it does allow Columbia and
Barnard undergraduates to apply for early admission to its master’s degree program. This enables qualified undergraduates majoring or concentrating in political science to obtain the B.A. degree and M.A. degree in fewer than five years (ten semesters) from the time of their entrance into Columbia or Barnard, if they fulfill the M.A. course and residency requirements through summer course work after receiving the B.A. or accelerated study during the course of their undergraduate career.

Students should apply during the fall semester of their senior year for admission to the M.A. program in the following fall semester, after completion of the B.A. degree. The department and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences may award up to one-half residence unit of advanced standing and/or up to three courses (nine to twelve credits) of transfer credit for graduate courses (4000-level and above) taken at Columbia in excess of the requirements for the Columbia bachelor’s degree, as certified by the dean of the undergraduate school awarding the bachelor’s degree.

For further information about the application process and minimum qualifications for early admission, please contact the director of undergraduate studies.

For further information about requirements for the M.A. degree, see https://gsas.columbia.edu/degree-programs/ma-programs/political-science.

**Professors**

Richard K. Betts  
Jagdish Bhagwati (also Economics)  
Alessandra Casella (also Economics)  
Partha Chatterjee (Anthropology)  
Jean L. Cohen  
Michael Doyle (also School of International and Public Affairs; Law School)  
Jon Elster  
Robert Erikson  
Virginia Page Fortna  
Timothy Frye  
Ester Fuchs (School of International and Public Affairs)  
Andrew Gelman (also Statistics)  
Donald P. Green  
Bernard Harcourt (Law)  
Fredrick Harris  
Jeffrey Henig (Teachers College)  
Shigeo Hirano  
John Huber  
Macartan Humphreys  
Robert Jervis  
David C. Johnston  
Ira Katznelson (also History)  
Sudipta Kaviraj (Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies)  
Jeffrey Lax  
Mahmood Mamdani (Anthropology)  
Karuna Mantena  
M. Victoria Murillo (also School of International and Public Affairs)  
Andrew J. Nathan  
Sharyn O’Halloran (also School of International and Public Affairs)  
Justin Phillips  
Kenneth Prewitt (School of International and Public Affairs)  
Robert Y. Shapiro  
Jack Snyder  
Michael Ting (also School of International and Public Affairs)  
Nadia Urbinati  
Gregory Wawro (Chair)  
Andreas Wimmer (also Sociology)  
Keren Yarhi-Milo (also School of International and Public Affairs)

**Associate Professors**

Allison Carnegie  
Daniel Corstange (also School of International and Public Affairs)  
Turkuler Isiksel  
Kimuli Kasara  
Tonya Putnam

**Assistant Professors**

Sarah Daly  
Nikhar Gaikwad  
John Marshall  
Carlo Prato  
Joshua Simon  
Yamil Velez

**Lecturers**

Michelle Chun  
Elise Giuliano  
Jessica Kimpell Johnson  
Lara Nettelfield  
Chiara Superti  
Inga Winkler

**On Leave**

Profs. Daly, Doyle, Frye, Fuchs, Humphreys, Katznelson, Prato (2019-2020)  
Profs. Carnegie, Corstange, Erikson, Phillips (Fall 2019)  
Profs. Betts, Green, Jervis, Mamdani, Marshall (Spring 2020)

**Guidelines for all Political Science Majors, Concentrators, and Interdepartmental Majors**

**Planning Forms**

Major Planning forms are available on the department website (https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-forms-library).

**Policy on Double-Counting Courses**

- Policies about double-counting courses to fulfill requirements in more than one major may be found here:
  - Columbia College (http://bulletin.columbia.edu/columbia-college/requirements-degree-bachelor-arts)
  - School of General Studies (http://bulletin.columbia.edu/general-studies/undergraduates/degree-fulfillment/major/#double)
- Courses in the Core Curriculum do not fulfill requirements for the Political Science major.

**Policy on Counting Credits outside the Department of Political Science**

- Courses taken at other institutions or other Columbia departments may not be used to meet the requirement of a major or concentration in political science without the approval of the Director of
Undergraduate Studies or the department's undergraduate adviser. Students should secure such approval in advance of registration.

**Pass/D/Fail and Grading Policy**
- A grade of “Pass” is acceptable only for the first course taken toward the major or concentration.
- The course used to fulfill the research methods requirement cannot be taken Pass/D/Fail.
- Students must receive a grade of at least C- in order for a course to count toward the major or concentration.

**AP Credit Policy**
- Students who receive transfer credit for one or more AP exams in political science may count a maximum of one AP course toward the major or concentration, contingent upon completing an upper-level (3000 or higher) course with a grade of C or higher in the subfield in which the AP exam was taken. All transfer credits must be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies or the undergraduate adviser (polisciadvising@columbia.edu).

**Transfer Credit Policy**
- A maximum of three 3-point or 4-point courses in Political Science may be transferred from other institutions toward the major; a maximum of two courses in Political Science may be transferred toward the concentration and the two interdepartmental joint majors. This includes study abroad and AP credit. All transfer credits must be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies or the undergraduate adviser (polisciadvising@columbia.edu).
- Students wishing to count transfer credits toward the major or concentration should send the Director of Undergraduate Studies their transfer credit report, the syllabi of the courses they want to count toward departmental requirements, and a statement of how they want to apply the transfer credits to the requirements.

**Independent Study Policy**
- Independent Study (POLS UN3901 Independent Reading and Research I in the fall or POLS UN3902 Independent Reading and Research II in the spring) taken in fulfillment of course requirements for the major/concentration must be taken for at least 3 points of credit.

**Major in Political Science**

**Program of Study**
To be planned with the department as soon as the student starts to register for courses toward the major. Students should not wait until they formally declare the major before meeting with an undergraduate adviser during the registration period to plan their programs for the major.

**Course Requirements**
Students must choose a **Primary Subfield** and a **Secondary Subfield** to study. The subfields are as follows:

- American Politics (AP)
- Comparative Politics (CP)
- International Relations (IR)
- Political Theory (PT)

The major in political science requires a minimum of 9 courses in political science, to be distributed as follows:

**Introductory Courses**
Students must take two of the following introductory courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLS UN1201</td>
<td>Introduction To American Government and Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS UN1501</td>
<td>Introduction to Comparative Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS UN1601</td>
<td>Introduction to International Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS UN1101</td>
<td>Political Theory I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Introductory courses taken that do not fit into the Primary or Secondary Subfield will be counted in the Political Science Elective category.

**Primary Subfield**
- Minimum three courses.

**Minor Subfield**
- Minimum two courses.

**Seminars**
- Two 4-point 3000-level seminars, at least one of which is in the student's Primary Subfield.
  (See “Seminars” section below for more information)

**Research Methods**
- Minimum one course in research methods. Courses that satisfy the research methods requirement are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLS UN3220</td>
<td>Logic of Collective Choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS UN3704</td>
<td>Data Analysis and Statistics for Political Science Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS UN3708</td>
<td>Empirical Research Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS UN3720</td>
<td>Scope and Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS GU4710</td>
<td>Principles of Quantitative Political Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS GU4712</td>
<td>Analysis of Political Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS GU4714</td>
<td>Multivariate Political Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS GU4730</td>
<td>Game Theory and Political Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS GU4732</td>
<td>Research Topics in Game Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS GU4764</td>
<td>Design and Analysis of Sample Surveys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS GU4768</td>
<td>Experimental Research: Design, Analysis and Interpretation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS GU4790</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Quantitative Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS GU4792</td>
<td>Applied Regression and Multilevel Models</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Political Science Electives**
- Minimum one course (in any subfield).

* A student may take another course inside or outside the department that provides relevant training in research methods to satisfy this requirement only with the written permission in advance of the Director of Undergraduate Studies or the department’s undergraduate adviser. If a course outside the political science department is used to satisfy the research methods requirement, this same course cannot be used toward other majors/concentrations or programs.

**Seminars**
Students are expected to take two 3000-level 4-point seminars: one in their junior year and another in their senior year (with exceptions made for students on leave or studying abroad). They may choose from among the seminars offered, though at least one of the seminars taken must be in the student’s Primary Subfield (that in which at least 9 other points have been completed). Entry into seminars requires instructor’s permission.
Barnard colloquia are open to students with the permission of the instructor. However, Barnard colloquia can count for seminar credit only at the discretion of the director of undergraduate studies. Note that admission to Barnard colloquia is by application to the Barnard Political Science Department only. Please consult with the Barnard Political Science Department for more information.

**Recommended Courses**

In addition to political science courses, students are strongly advised, but not required, to take six points in a related social science field.

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**Major in Economics–Political Science**

The major in economics-political science is an interdisciplinary major that introduces students to the methodologies of economics and political science and stresses areas of particular concern to both. This program is particularly beneficial to students planning to do graduate work in schools of public policy and international affairs.

Two advisers are assigned for the interdepartmental major, one in the Department of Economics and one in the Department of Political Science. Please note that the economics adviser can only advise on economics requirements and the political science adviser can only advise on political science requirements.

**Course Requirements**

For the political science part of the major, students must choose a **Primary Subfield** and a **Secondary Subfield** to study. The corresponding introductory courses in both subfields must be taken, plus two electives in the Primary Subfield and one in the Secondary Subfield. The subfields are as follows:

- American Politics (AP)
- Comparative Politics (CP)
- International Relations (IR)
- Political Theory (PT)

The economics–political science major requires a total of 59 points: 22 points in economics, 17 points in political science, 6 points in mathematics, 6 points in statistical methods, 4 points in a political science seminar, and 4 points in the interdisciplinary seminar as follows:

**Core Requirements in Economics**

Students must take all of the following core economics courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON UN105</td>
<td>Principles of Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON UN3211</td>
<td>Intermediate Microeconomics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON UN3213</td>
<td>Intermediate Macroeconomics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON UN3412</td>
<td>Introduction To Econometrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or POLS GU4712</td>
<td>Analysis of Political Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON GU4370</td>
<td>Political Economy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Core Requirements in Mathematics and Statistics**

Students must take all of the following core mathematics and statistics courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH UN1101</td>
<td>Calculus I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Major in Political Science–Statistics**

The interdepartmental major of political science–statistics is designed for students who desire an understanding of political science to pursue advanced study in this field and who also wish to have at their command a broad range of sophisticated statistical tools to analyze data related to social science and public policy research.

Students should be aware of the rules regarding the use of the Pass/D/Fail option. Courses in which a grade of D has been received do not count toward the major requirements.

Political science–statistics students are eligible for all prizes reserved for political science majors.

The political science-statistics major requires a minimum of 15 courses in political science, statistics, and mathematics, to be distributed as follows:

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

- Students must choose a Primary Subfield to study. Within the subfield, students must take a minimum of three courses, including the subfield’s introductory course. The subfields and their corresponding introductory courses are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON UN3412</td>
<td>Introduction To Econometrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or POLS GU4712</td>
<td>Analysis of Political Data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Economics Electives**

Students must take two electives at the 3000 level or higher in the Department of Economics.

**Political Science Courses**

Students must choose a Primary Subfield and a Secondary Subfield to study. The subfields are as follows: American Politics (AP), Comparative Politics (CP), International Relations (IR), and Political Theory (PT).

- **Primary Subfield**: Minimum three courses, one of which must be the subfield’s introductory course.
- **Secondary Subfield**: Minimum two courses, one of which must be the subfield’s introductory course.

**Seminars**

Students must take the following two seminars:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Seminar Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECP GU4921</td>
<td>Seminar In Political Economy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For detailed seminar registration guidelines, see the department website: [polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars](http://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars).

* Students who wish to count toward the political science seminar requirement a course that is not in the above list of approved seminars must obtain permission from the political science Director of Undergraduate studies.

Barnard colloquia can count for seminar credit only with the written permission of the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Note that admission to Barnard colloquia is by application to the Barnard political science department only.
POLS UN1201  Introduction To American Government and Politics

Comparative Politics:
POLS UN1501  Introduction to Comparative Politics

International Relations:
POLS UN1601  Introduction to International Politics

Political Theory:
POLS UN1101  Political Theory I

- Additionally, students must take one 4-point 3000-level seminar in their Primary Subfield.

Research Methods
- Students must take the following two research methods courses:
POLS GU4710  Principles of Quantitative Political Research
or POLS UN3704  Data Analysis and Statistics for Political Science Research
POLS GU4712  Analysis of Political Data

STATISTICS
- Students must take one of the following sequences:
  Sequence A — recommended for students preparing for graduate study in statistics
MATH UN1101  Calculus I
MATH UN1102  Calculus II
MATH UN2010  Linear Algebra
STAT UN1201  Calculus-Based Introduction to Statistics
STAT GU4203  PROBABILITY THEORY
STAT GU4204  Statistical Inference
STAT GU4205  Linear Regression Models
STAT GU4206  Statistical Computing and Introduction to Data Science

or

Sequence B — recommended for students preparing to apply statistical methods to other fields
STAT UN1101  Introduction to Statistics
STAT UN2102  Applied Statistical Computing
STAT UN2103  Applied Linear Regression Analysis
STAT UN2104  Applied Categorical Data Analysis
STAT UN3105  Applied Statistical Methods
STAT UN3106  Applied Data Mining

Statistics Elective
- Students must take an approved elective in a statistics or a quantitatively oriented course in a social science.

1. Students taking Statistics Sequence A may replace the mathematics requirements with both MATH UN1207 Honors Mathematics A and MATH UN1208 Honors Mathematics B.

Concentration in Political Science

Program of Study
To be planned with the department as soon as the student starts to register for courses toward the concentration. Students should not wait until they formally declare the concentration before meeting with an undergraduate adviser during the registration period to plan their programs for the concentration.

Concentration Requirements
Students must choose a Primary Subfield and a Secondary Subfield to study. The subfields are as follows:

- American Politics (AP)
- Comparative Politics (CP)
- International Relations (IR)
- Political Theory (PT)

The concentration in political science requires a minimum of 7 courses in political science, to be distributed as follows:

Introductory Courses
Students must take two of the following introductory courses:
POLS UN1201  Introduction To American Government and Politics
POLS UN1501  Introduction to Comparative Politics
POLS UN1601  Introduction to International Politics
POLS UN1101  Political Theory I

NOTE: Introductory courses taken that do not fit into the Primary or Secondary Subfield will be counted in the Political Science Elective category.

Primary Subfield
Minimum two courses.

Secondary Subfield
Minimum two courses.

Research Methods *
Minimum one course in research methods. Courses that satisfy the methods requirement are:
POLS UN3220  Logic of Collective Choice
POLS UN3704  Data Analysis and Statistics for Political Science Research
POLS UN3708  Empirical Research Methods
POLS UN3720  Scope and Methods
POLS GU4710  Principles of Quantitative Political Research
POLS GU4712  Analysis of Political Data
POLS GU4714  Multivariate Political Analysis
POLS GU4730  Game Theory and Political Theory
POLS GU4732  Research Topics in Game Theory
POLS GU4764  Design and Analysis of Sample Surveys
POLS GU4768  Experimental Research: Design, Analysis and Interpretation
POLS GU4790  Advanced Topics in Quantitative Research
POLS GU4792  Applied Regression and Multilevel Models

Political Science Electives
Minimum two courses (in any subfield).

- A student may take another course inside or outside the department that provides relevant training in research methods to satisfy this requirement only with the written permission in advance of the Director of Undergraduate Studies or the department's undergraduate adviser. If a course outside the political science department is used to satisfy the research methods requirement, this same course cannot be used toward other majors/concentrations or programs.

Recommended Courses
In addition to courses in political science, students are strongly advised, but not required, to take six credits in a related social science field.
American Politics

POLS UN3208 State Politics. 3 points.
This course is intended to provide students with a detailed understanding of politics in the American states. The topics covered are divided into four broad sections. The first explores the basic features of intergovernmental relations and the historical evolution of American federalism. The second part of the course focuses on state-level political institutions. The organization and processes associated with the legislative, executive, and judicial branches are discussed in depth. The third section examines state elections, political parties, and interest groups. Finally, the course concludes by looking closely at various policy areas. Budgeting, welfare, education, and morality policy are among those considered.

Spring 2019: POLS UN3208
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
POLS 3208 | 001/63422 | T Th 8:40am - 9:55am 602 Hamilton Hall | Justin Phillips | 3 | 82/86

POLS UN3213 American Urban Politics. 3 points.
This course examines the pattern of political development in urban America, as the country’s population has grown in urbanized locations. It explores the process by which cities and suburbs are governed, how immigrants and migrants are incorporated, and how people of different races and ethnicities interact in urbanized settings as well as the institutional relations of cities and suburbs with other jurisdictions of government. The course focuses both on the historical as well the theoretical understandings of politics in urban areas.

Spring 2019: POLS UN3213
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
POLS 3213 | 001/74346 | M W 6:10pm - 7:25pm 517 Hamilton Hall | Carlos Vargas Ramos | 3 | 69/86

POLS UN3220 Logic of Collective Choice. 3 points.
Much of politics is about combining individual preferences or actions into collective choices. We will make use of two theoretical approaches. Our primary approach will be social choice theory, which studies how we aggregate what individuals want into what the collective “wants.” The second approach, game theory, covers how we aggregate what individuals want into what the group gets, given that social, economic, and political outcomes usually depend on the interaction of individual choices. The aggregation of preferences or choices is usually governed by some set of institutional rules, formal or informal. Our main themes include the rationality of individual and group preferences, the underpinnings and implications of using majority rule, tradeoffs between aggregation methods, the fairness of group choice, the effects of institutional constraints on choice (e.g., agenda control), and the implications for democratic choice. Most of the course material is highly abstract, but these abstract issues turn up in many real-world problems, from bargaining between the branches of government to campus elections to judicial decisions on multi-member courts to the allocation of relief funds among victims of natural disasters to the scoring of Olympic events. The collective choice problem is one faced by society as a whole and by the smallest group alive.

Fall 2019: POLS UN3220
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
POLS 3220 | 001/99769 | M W 10:10am - 11:25am Room TBA | Jeffrey Lax | 3 | 45/110

POLS UN3222 The American Congress. 3 points.
Prerequisites: POLS UN1201 or the equivalent, or the instructor’s permission.
Inquiry into the dynamics, organization, and policy-making processes of the American Congress. Particular emphasis on the relationship of legislators to constituents, lobbyists, bureaucrats, the president, and with one another.

Spring 2019: POLS UN3222
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
POLS 3222 | 001/11475 | T Th 2:40pm - 3:55pm Room TBA | Gregory Wawro | 3 | 75/96

Fall 2019: POLS UN3222
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
POLS 3222 | 001/47190 | T Th 11:40am - 12:55pm Room TBA | Gregory Wawro | 3 | 100/100

POLS UN3225 American Constitutional History. 3 points.
This Course is intended to look at key developments of American History through the prism of Supreme Court decisions and their aftermath. In essence, this Course will address four questions: (1) How did the Supreme Court reflect and/or affect historic patterns of U.S. development? (2) How did the Supreme Court respond to, alleviate and/or exacerbate major crises and political issues in U.S. history? (3) How did the Supreme Court impact the U.S. legal and economic framework? (4) How did the Supreme Court’s perception of individual and collective rights and liberties, and of the function and role of Governments — both Federal and State — evolve over time?

Spring 2019: POLS UN3225
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
POLS 3225 | 001/22360 | T Th 1:10pm - 2:25pm 511 Hamilton Hall | Robert Tortoriello | 3 | 22/28
POLS UN3285 Freedom of Speech and Press. 3 points.
Examines the constitutional right of freedom of speech and press in the United States. Examines, in depth, various areas of law, including extremist or seditious speech, obscenity, libel, fighting words, the public forum doctrine, and public access to the mass media. Follows the law school course model, with readings focused on actual judicial decisions.

Priority given to senior majors, followed by junior majors, then all other students.
Prerequisites: the instructor’s permission. Pre-registration is not permitted.
Seminar in American Politics. Students who would like to register should join the electronic wait list. For list of topics and descriptions see: https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars

American Politics Seminars
POLS UN3921 Seminar in American Politics. 4 points.
Priority given to senior majors, followed by junior majors, then all other students.
Prerequisites: the instructor’s permission. Pre-registration is not permitted.
Seminar in American Politics Seminar. Students who would like to register should join the electronic wait list. For list of topics and descriptions see: https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars

POLS 3930 Constitutional Law Seminar. 4 points.
Prerequisites: the instructor’s permission.
This seminar explores major features of U.S. constitutional law through close examination of selected decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court. Through student discussion and some lecturing, the seminar addresses issues arising from the Constitution’s allocation of power among the three branches of government; the allocation of powers between the National and State governments, including, in particular, the scope of Congress’ regulatory powers; and the protection of the individual from arbitrary and discriminatory government conduct, including the protections of the Fifth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments against unequal treatment based on race, gender and sexual orientation, the evolution of the concept of liberty from its protection of economic interests before the New Deal to its current role in protecting individual autonomy and privacy, and some aspects of the First Amendment’s protection of freedom of speech and press. More generally the seminar aims to enhance understanding of some main aspects of our constitutional tradition and the judicial process by which it is elaborated.
Comparative Politics

POLS UN1501 Introduction to Comparative Politics. 4 points.

This course provides a broad overview of the comparative politics subfield by focusing on important substantive questions about the world today. The course is organized around four questions. First, why can only some people depend upon the state to enforce order? Second, how can we account for the differences between autocracies and democracies? Third, what different institutional forms does democratic government take? Finally, are some institutions more likely than others to produce desirable social outcomes such as accountability, redistribution, and political stability?

POLS UN3528 New and Old Forms of Political Protest. 3 points.

This course will introduce the students to the important topic of political protest. Each week we will address different aspects of the phenomenon: from the determinant to the actors and strategies of protest. We will discuss how the forms of protest have changed and the current role of the internet in general and social media in particular. Finally, we will discuss the role of the state and state repression, in particular censorship in the dynamics of protest. Since this is a comparative politics course, we will cover a range of different countries, including the United States, as well as both democratic and authoritarian regimes.

POLS GU4406 Politics in Contemporary China. 4 points.

This course will be taught in Chinese.

This course focuses on the evolution of Chinese politics since the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) took power in 1949. It introduces and discusses the relationship between the two “three decades” (the three decades under Mao and the three decades of “reform and opening up”). More specifically, the course aims to (1) clarify some important historical facts, (2) analyze the ideological consideration of the “official” history sanctioned by the CCP and its epistemological impact, (3) make a comparison between official view and that of independent scholars about the history; (4) try to respond to some urgent problems faced by contemporary China, and (5) provide suggestions and principles for the reconstruction of the historiography of contemporary China. Students will learn how to understand the recent development Chinese politics, how to analyze the complex contemporary history and reality of China, and how to approach issues about China from a systematic perspective.

POLS GU4407 Nine Thought Trends in China. 4 points.

This course will be taught in Chinese.

Prerequisites: fluency in Chinese (the course will be taught in Chinese, and a large number of readings will be in Chinese).

This is an elective course designed for both undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in the contemporary politics in China. The course focuses on nine major thought trends in China today that include 1) the Liberalism; 2) the New Authoritarianism; 3) the New Left; 4) Mao Left; 5) the Democratic Group within the Communist Party; 6) Governing through Confucian Theory; 7) Constitutional Socialism; 8) the so-called “Neither-Left and Nor-Right” Governing Theory; and 9) the New Nationalism Calling Tough Foreign Policies. China is deep in the social and political transition process, and the thoughts and actions of intellects themself have formed an important part in this transition. In this sense, the course not only helps understand the thoughts of intellects, but also better help understand today’s China affairs as a whole.

POLS GU4423 Political Economy Theory and Methods: Elites and Institutions. 4 points.

This course examines political institutions and elite behavior from a political economy perspective. Students will rigorously examine contemporary debates, focusing on how incentives and institutions drive the actions of politicians, bureaucrats, and journalists. Students will use formal models and design-based causal inference to generate hypotheses, identify causal effects from developed and developing democracies, and ultimately seek to interpret them. Ultimately, the goals of this course are twofold. The substantive goal is to familiarize students with foundational theoretical arguments and frontier empirical evidence pertaining to central questions in political economy. The methodological goal is to empower students to implement research designs that can effectively address the substantive questions driving their research.

This course is primarily intended for PhD students in political science and other social sciences. The course will assume familiarity with graduate-level game theory and econometrics/statistics. Advanced undergraduate and masters students will be admitted on a case by case basis.
POLS GU4434 Ethnic Politics Across Post-Soviet Eurasia. 4 points.

Various forms of ethnic politics have characterized politics in many states throughout Eurasia since 1991, from nationalist separatism to violent conflict to political competition among ethnic minorities and majorities. This course is designed to encourage students to think deeply about the relationship between ethnicity and politics. We will consider several questions. First, why does ethnicity become politicized? We investigate this question by examining nationalist secessionism and ethnic conflict—phenomena that mushroomed at the end of the Cold War. We will focus on East Central Europe and the former Soviet Union, devoting special attention to the cases of Yugoslavia, the USSR, Moldova, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and Chechnya. However, we will also study cases in which the dog didn’t bark, i.e. places where nationalist mobilization and ethnic violence either did not occur, or emerged and then receded as in the ethnic republics of the Russian Federation (including the “Muslim” regions of Tatarstan and Bashkortostan, etc.). In the second part of the course, we will analyze ethnic politics after independent statehood was achieved throughout the post-Soviet space. How do nationalist state-builders try to construct a nation and a state at the same time? Have they incorporated or discriminated against minorities living within “their” states? How have ethnic minorities responded? We will study Ukraine, the Baltics and Kazakhstan where ethnic Russians and Russian-speaking populations form large portions of the population, devoting particular attention to the crisis in Ukraine. We will also examine how the post-conflict regions of Bosnia and Kosovo have dealt with ethnic pluralism. These cases allow us to gain greater understanding of how multi-ethnic states use forms of federalism, consociationalism, and power-sharing as state-building strategies.

POLS GU4447 Drug-trafficking, Politics and Development in Latin America. 4 points.

There is wide evidence that the war against drugs has had limited results and great unintended consequences: It has been a major contributor to violence and crime in the region, generating great economic loss, corruption in political elites and important development dilemmas in peripheral regions where the presence of the state was been historically very limited. The objective of the course is to explore the conditions and consequences of organized crime in the region, relations between drug-traffic and counter-insurgencies, and the origins and operations of transnational gangs. We will also analyze the effect of drug-trafficking in the behavior of political elites, in the capacity of the state to face and the consequences for government corruption and victimization of the justice system.

POLS GU4449 Cleavages, Conflicts and Bridges in Israeli Politics and Foreign Policy. 4 points.

Prerequisites: INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION REQUIRED

Conflicts, cleavages and contentiousness are a common feature of a democratic system of government in general. In this respect Israel is no exception. Apart from being the Start Up Nation and the Holy Land, in the minds of many around the world Israel is associated with conflict. Indeed, both internally and externally, Israeli politics is suffused with conflict and continuously has to live up to the challenge of preserving democracy in the presence of conflict. The achievements of Israel in the political, economic, international and social arenas were facilitated by the emergence of a pattern of politics, indeed, a political culture, that puts a strong emphasis on the pursuit of political accommodation among social groupings, political parties and ideological strands even at the expense of compromising their respective manifest interests, aspirations and programs. Moreover, the mobilization capabilities of Israel's governments have been remarkable by any standard. They were capable of inducing the citizens to accept willingly such burdens as high taxation, harsh economic measures and long conscript and reserve military service. Israel has done all these without loss of public support for its central political and social institutions. This class will focus on conflicts, external and internal. We will examine social, economic and political cleavages within the state of Israel. We will study the Arab-Israeli conflict and in particular the interaction of Israel with the Palestinians over the years. Finally, we will examine broader circles in which Israeli foreign policy applies and in particular in the context of US-Israel relations and in regional conflicts in the aftermath of the Arab Spring and the Iran Deal.

POLS GU4453 Politics in Russia. 4 points.

This course begins by studying the late Soviet era—the 1970s through the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991—in order to understand what kind of political system and political culture Russia inherited. We spend some time analyzing why and how the Soviet Union—a superpower for 75 years—disintegrated suddenly and for the most part, peacefully. Then, the bulk of the course focuses on state-building in the Russian Federation. Russia’s effort to construct new political institutions, a functioning economy, and a healthy society represents one of the greatest political dramas of our time. Beginning with Yeltsin’s presidency in 1991 and continuing through the current eras of Putin, Medvedev, and Putin again, we consider phenomena such as economic reform, nationalism, separatism, federalism, war, legal reform, civil society, and democratization. The third part of the course addresses Russia’s foreign relations. Like its predecessor states, the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, Russia is concerned with what kind of state it is (or should be) and where it stands in the international order. We will study how Russian elites make sense of Russia’s identity, as well as Russia’s policies toward the US, Europe, its “near abroad,” the Middle East, and China.

POLS GU4454 Comparative Politics of South Asia. 4 points.

This course first compares the post-independence political histories of South Asian countries, particularly India and Pakistan. It then explores selected topics across countries: social and cultural dimensions of politics; structures of power; and political behavior. The underlying theme is to explain the development and durability of the particular political regimes—democratic or authoritarian—in each country.
POLS GU4461 Latin American Politics. 4 points.
This is a lecture class that seeks to introduce students to social scientific analysis while discussing the shifting dynamics of political representation in Latin America. In analyzing political representation in the region, it focuses on demands for political inclusion by different actors and how they were resisted or accepted by established elites in a process that moved from regime change to electoral rotation in power. The course covers these political dynamics and their institutional consequences since the onset of the twentieth century, starting with the Mexican Revolution, until the contemporary period where democracy is the predominant form of government and elections a crucial tool for social and political change. While analyzing the politics of Latin America, we will cover important political science concepts associated with democratic representation, social inclusion and the rule of the law, such as social movement mobilization, political regime change, presidentialism, political party systems, political identities, state capacity, and institutional weakness.

POLS GU4472 Japanese Politics. 4 points.
Surveys key features of the Japanese political system, with focus on political institutions and processes. Themes include party politics, bureaucratic power, the role of the Diet, voting behavior, the role of the state in the economy, and the domestic politics of foreign policy.

POLS GU4473 Political Transitions in Southeast Asia. 4 points.
What political direction is Southeast Asia taking? Over the past two decades, Indonesia has been transformed from a military-dominated semi-authoritarian state to the region’s most vigorous and open political order. Meanwhile Thailand has experienced two military coups since 2006, and early patterns of political liberalization seem to be unraveling. And Burma has gone from international pariah to prospective new democracy.

Is it possible to see any overall regional trends? Are teleological assumptions of the inexorable rise of democracy being vindicated – or does much of the evident point in just the opposite direction? The module will examine the nature of transitions (and attempted transitions) to more open political systems in Southeast Asia, with a primary focus on Burma, Indonesia, and Thailand. After a brief review of the three cases, the course will adopt a thematic approach, first reviewing the character of the state, including national mythologies, the military and the relations between capital city and provinces. It will then explore aspects of transition, including the changing political economy, the rise of electoral politics, the role of religion and media, and the phenomenon of rally politics. Challenges to national elites from the regions will also be closely scrutinised. These themes and issues have a broader relevance to wider debates in comparative politics, which students will be encouraged to explore in their papers.
POLS GU4476 Korean Politics. 4 points.
The course Korean Politics and Foreign Policy aims to advance knowledge of Korea’s politics and foreign policy, with emphasis on that of South Korea, but with additional focus on North Korea. This course covers relevant political theory, contemporary history and issues of particular significance to Korean politics, including the growth of civil society and the contest for legitimacy internally and internationally. The course addresses the Peninsula’s unique geopolitics, democratic and economic development in South Korea, and the politics and economics of the communist and Confucian North. Given today’s tremendous global concern over North Korea’s security challenges, the course examines in detail the ideological and political background behind the North’s rapidly developing missile and nuclear capabilities and human rights violations. The course posits the aims and objectives of South Korea’s international relations and success in the regional and global arena—which contrast starkly with that of North Korea. It assesses South Korea’s relations with the United States and near neighbors China and Japan. Finally, it weighing prospects for inter-Korean cooperation, integration and unification.

POLS GU4478 Domestic Russian Politics Since the Collapse of the Soviet Union. 3 points.
Over the last twenty-five years, Russia has transformed from a state weakened by years of economic decline and dominated by competing powerful actors into an authoritarian regime with imperial aspirations and global reach. Yet headlines seldom tell the whole story. Who is Vladimir Putin and what does the political system he presides over – often called the power vertical – consist of? What explains the electoral dominance of United Russia? Why are there massive but rare protests in Russia? What role does masculinity play in public politics in Russia? What motivated and what was gained by the annexation of the Crimea? This class will answer these questions and others by examining issues relevant to contemporary Russian politics. Students will begin with an overview of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the painful transition of the 1990s. Students will then examine Russia’s current political regime as well as the political career of Vladimir Putin. The course will devote significant time to the topic of elections, protest and civil society in Russia before concluding with a look at Russia’s foreign policy ambitions.

Comparative Politics Seminars
POLS UN3951 Seminar in Comparative Politics. 4 points.
Priority given to senior majors, followed by junior majors, then all other students.

Prerequisites: POLS V1501 or the equivalent, and the instructor’s permission. Pre-registration is not permitted. Please see here for detailed seminar registration guidelines: http://polisci.columbia.edu/undergraduate-programs/seminar-registration-guidelines. Seminar in Comparative Politics. Students who would like to register should join the electronic wait list. For list of topics and descriptions see: https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars

POLS UN3952 Seminar in Comparative Politics. 4 points.
Seminar in Comparative Politics. Students who would like to register should join the electronic wait list,

For list of topics and descriptions see: https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars
International Relations

POLS UN1601 Introduction to International Politics. 4 points.
Lecture and discussion. The basic setting and dynamics of international politics, with emphasis on enduring impulses and processes.

Spring 2019: POLS UN1601
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
POLS 1601 001/24862 M W 4:10pm - 5:25pm 417 International Affairs Bldg Robert Jervis 4 213/398

Fall 2019: POLS UN1601
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
POLS 1601 001/09147 M W 2:40pm - 3:55pm Room TBA Kimberly Marten 4 80/80

POLS UN3619 Nationalism and Contemporary World Politics. 3 points.
The causes and consequences of nationalism. Nationalism as a cause of conflict in contemporary world politics. Strategies for mitigating nationalist and ethnic conflict.

Spring 2019: POLS UN3619
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
POLS 3619 001/12559 T Th 10:10am - 11:25am 313 Fayerweather Jack Snyder 3 45/74

POLS UN3623 Ending War & Building Peace. 3 points.
This course provides an introduction to the politics of war termination and peace consolidation. The course examines the challenges posed by ending wars and the process by which parties to a conflict arrive at victory, ceasefires, and peace negotiations. It explores how peace is sustained, why peace lasts in some cases and breaks down in others and what can be done to make peace more stable, focusing on the role of international interventions, power-sharing arrangements, reconciliation between adversaries, and reconstruction.

POLS UN3630 Politics of International Economic Relations. 3 points.
This upper-level undergraduate course examines the intersection of politics and economics at primarily the international level. The course involves the careful reading and evaluation of the dominant theoretical and methodological approaches as currently used in the IPE field, as well as examination of prominent debates within the major IPE subject areas of trade, finance, development and globalization. This class does not have an economics or a specific political science prerequisite, but assumes a general understanding of historical and contemporary political and economic events. As a 3000-level course, this class would not be an appropriate choice for students who have not already taken introductory courses in political science, including international relations and comparative politics.

POLS UN3631 American Foreign Policy. 4 points.
This course is concerned with what policy the American government should adopt toward several foreign policy issues in the next decade or so, using materials from contradictory viewpoints. Students will be required to state fairly alternative positions and to use policy analysis (goals, alternatives, consequences, and choice) to reach conclusions.

Fall 2019: POLS UN3631
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
POLS 3631 001/47179 M W 2:40pm - 3:55pm Room TBA Roy Licklider 4 64/86

POLS UN3648 Governing the Global Economy. 4 points.
Who governs the world economy? Why do countries succeed or fail to cooperate in setting their economic policies? When and how do international institutions help countries cooperate? When and why do countries adopt good and bad economic policies? This course examines how domestic and international politics determine how the global economy is governed. We will study the politics of trade, international investment, monetary, immigration, and environmental policies to answer these questions. The course will approach each topic by examining alternative theoretical approaches and evaluate these theories using historical and contemporary evidence. There will be an emphasis on applying concepts through the analysis of policy-relevant case studies designed specifically for this course.

Spring 2019: POLS UN3648
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
POLS 3648 001/66714 T Th 4:10pm - 5:25pm 644 Seeley W. Mudd Building Nikkar Gaikwad 4 28/35

Fall 2019: POLS UN3648
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
POLS 3648 001/47180 T Th 4:10pm - 5:25pm Room TBA Nikkar Gaikwad 4 38/35

POLS UN3680 Topics in International Security. 3 points.
This course explores how and why states and non-state actors use violent and non-violent strategies in international politics. While not all topics in international security can be covered thoroughly in one semester, this course will give a sampling of many of the topics, including military doctrines and strategies, diplomatic policies, social forces, civil wars, and roles of individuals. Though historical and current events will be used as examples to illustrate how various theories work, students should keep in mind that this is not a course on current events.

POLS UN3690 International Law. 4 points.
What is public international law, and what does it influence the behavior of states, corporations, and individuals in the international system? This introductory course engages these questions as well as the politics of applying and enforcing public international law in various contexts and issue areas. An understanding of basic international legal principles, institutions, and processes is developed through exploration of foundational cases, and by means of (required) participation in a multi-week group simulation of an international legal dispute.

Spring 2019: POLS UN3690
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
POLS 3690 001/15908 M W 8:40am - 9:55am 417 International Affairs Bldg Tonia Putnam 4 41/54

POLS UN3697 Comparative Politics. 3 points.
This course provides a comparative analysis of political systems and political processes. The course is focused on a wide range of issues such as political stability, the role of political parties, public policy, and the role of government in the economy. The course is designed to provide an introduction to the central issues in comparative politics.
POLS GU4895 War, Peace, and Strategy. 4 points.
Discussion Section Required
Survey of the causes of war and peace, functions of military strategy, interaction of political ends and military means. Emphasis on 20th-century conflicts; nuclear deterrence; economic, technological, and moral aspects of strategy; crisis management, and institutional norms and mechanisms for promoting stability.

International Relations Seminars
POLS UN3961 International Politics Seminar. 4 points.
Priority given to senior majors, followed by junior majors, then all other students.
Prerequisites: POLS UN1601 or the equivalent, and the instructor's permission.
Seminar in International Politics. Students who would like to register should join the electronic wait list.

Political Theory
POLS UN1101 Political Theory I. 4 points.
What is the relationship between law and justice? Are capacities of political judgment shared by the many or reserved for the few? What does human equality consist of and what are its implications? Can individual freedom be reconciled with the demands of political community? What are the origins and effects of persistent gender inequalities? These are some of the crucial questions that we will address in this introductory course in political theory. The course is divided into five thematic sections, each addressing an enduring political problem or issue and centered on a key text in the history of political thought: 1. Laws, Obligations, and the Question of Disobedience; Sophocles, Antigone; 2. Democratic Citizenship and the Capacities of Political Judgment; Plato, Republic; 3. Origins and Effects of (In)equality; John Locke, Second Treatise of Civil Government; 4. Paradoxes of Freedom; Jean Jacques Rousseau, On the Social Contract; 5. The Woman Question; John Stuart Mill, The Subjection of Women.
POLS UN3100 Justice. 3 points.
An inquiry into the nature and implications of justice in areas ranging from criminal justice to social justice to the circumstances of war and peace, considering issues such as abortion, the criminalization of behavior, the death penalty, climate change, global poverty, civil disobedience, and international conflict.

Spring 2019: POLS UN3100

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POLS UN3170 Nationalism, Republicanism and Cosmopolitanism. 3 points.
Do we have obligations to our co-nationals that we do not owe to others? Might our loyalties or obligations to our fellow citizens be based on a commitment to shared political principles and common public life rather than national identity? Do we have basic duties that are owed equally to human beings everywhere, regardless of national or political affiliation? Do our commitments to co-nationals or compatriots conflict with those duties we might owe to others, and if so, to what extent? Is cosmopolitanism based on rationality and patriotism based on passion? This course will explore these questions from the perspectives of nationalism, republicanism and cosmopolitanism. We will consider historical works from Herder, Rousseau, Kant, Fichte, Mill, Mazzini and Renan; and more contemporary contributions from Berlin, Miller, Canovan, MacIntyre, Virol, Sandel, Pettit, Habermas, Nussbaum, Appiah, and Pogge, among others.

POLS UN3173 Power, Rights, and Social Change: Achieving Justice. 4 points.
This lecture course, accompanied by its weekly discussion section, will introduce students to the field of justice. It will combine an intellectual history of conceptions of justice and modes of political change with an exploration of the main areas of public interest and advocacy. The course is intended to serve as a bridge from the Columbia Core to present issues of social justice. Throughout, the discussion will question how we—contemporary subjects and citizens—can improve our social and political condition and achieve justice.

POLS UN3190 Republicanism: Past and Present, or Plato to Pettit. 3 points.
The course is divided into two main parts. The first half examines features of classical republicanisms and developments from Greece and Rome up to the late eighteenth century. We will analyze the relationship between ethics and politics, the significance of the mixed constitution, the problem of political instability, the role of character in political action, and the relationship between virtuous citizens, good arms and good laws. The second half will be more issue-based, as we will examine the emergence of republicanism in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, in part as a critique of liberal democracy. We will explore the efforts to define “republican” freedom, the relationship between equality and freedom (and the challenges posed by the market and inequality in resources), the relationship between republicanism and democracy, and the role and nature of civic virtue. The class will end with consideration of recent efforts on the part of some political theorists to redefine patriotism or loyalty to one’s particular state in the modern world and to think about what republicanism might require on a global scale.

Spring 2019: POLS UN3190

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Fall 2019: POLS UN3190

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POLS GU4132 Political Thought - Classical and Medieval. 3 points.
Prerequisites: Contemporary Civilization or a comparable introduction to political theory course. The course examines the historical and theoretical foundations of democracy. The underlying assumption is that political arrangements and institutions are the embodiment of political ideas and theories. The course will investigate the historical emergence of democracy as a form of government based on equality before the law and equal access to all citizens to the deliberative, decisional and control processes. The historical starting point is identified in Solon’s reforms in Athens which dramatically broke the hegemony of ancient nobility; we will then study Cleisthenes’ reforms and their redefinition of citizenry; in the context of the new political ideal of isonomia. We will proceed to examine the theoretical debate of the fifth century BCE, which includes Herodotus (Il, 80-82), Thucydides and Protagoras. We will then examine the criticism levelled at democracy by Socrates, Plato and Aristotle: their thought enables us to compare the ancient idea of democracy to our own. Finally, we will study the Roman contribution to the theory of democracy, namely Cicero’s ideal of ‘republic’ and the role that ius, codified law, played in it.

Fall 2019: POLS GU4132

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<th>Times/Location</th>
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### Political Theory Seminars

**POLS UN3911 Seminar in Political Theory. 4 points.**
Priority given to senior majors, followed by junior majors, then all other students.

Seminar in Political Theory. Students who would like to register should join the electronic wait list. For list of topics and descriptions see: [https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars](https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars)

**Fall 2019: POLS UN3911**

<table>
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**POLS UN3912 Seminar in Political Theory. 4 points.**
Priority given to senior majors, followed by junior majors, then all other students.

Prerequisites: the instructor's permission. Pre-registration is not permitted.

Seminar in Political Theory. Students who would like to register should join the electronic wait list.

For list of topics and descriptions see: [https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars](https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars)

### Research Methods

**POLS UN3220 Logic of Collective Choice. 3 points.**
Much of politics is about combining individual preferences or actions into collective choices. We will make use of two theoretical approaches. Our primary approach will be social choice theory, which studies how we aggregate what individuals want into what the collective “wants.” The second approach, game theory, covers how we aggregate what individuals want into what the group gets, given that social, economic, and political outcomes usually depend on the interaction of individual choices. The aggregation of preferences or choices is usually governed by some set of institutional rules, formal or informal. Our main themes include the rationality of individual and group preferences, the underpinnings and implications of using majority rule, tradeoffs between aggregation methods, the fairness of group choice, the effects of institutional constraints on choice (e.g., agenda control), and the implications for democratic choice. Most of the course material is highly abstract, but these abstract issues turn up in many real-world problems, from bargaining between the branches of government to campus elections to judicial decisions on multi-member courts to the allocation of relief funds among victims of natural disasters to the scoring of Olympic events. The collective choice problem is one faced by society as a whole and by the smallest group alike.

**Spring 2019: POLS UN3220**

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**POLS GU4732 Research Topics in Game Theory. 4 points.**
Discussion Section Required

Prerequisites: **POLS W4730** or the instructor’s permission.

Advanced topics in game theory will cover the study of repeated games, games of incomplete information and principal-agent models with applications in the fields of voting, bargaining, lobbying and violent conflict. Results from the study of social choice theory, mechanism design and auction theory will also be treated. The course will concentrate on mathematical techniques for constructing and solving games. Students will be required to develop a topic relating political science and game theory and to write a formal research paper.

**Fall 2019: POLS GU4732**

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### Senior Honors Seminar

**POLS UN3998 Senior Honors Seminar. 4 points.**
Prerequisites: admission to the departmental honors program.
A two-term seminar for students writing the senior honors thesis.

**Fall 2019: POLS UN3998**

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POLS UN3999 Senior Honors Seminar. 4 points.
Prerequisites: admission to the departmental honors program.
A two-term seminar for students writing the senior honors thesis.

Spring 2019: POLS UN3999

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Independent Reading and Research

POLS UN3901 Independent Reading and Research I. 1-6 points.

Fall 2019: POLS UN3901

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POLS UN3902 Independent Reading and Research II. 1-6 points.

Spring 2019: POLS UN3902

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Of Related Interest

Economics
ECPS GU4921 Seminar In Political Economy

Human Rights
HRTS UN3001 Introduction to Human Rights
HRTS W3930 International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights